



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a **Regional** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Monday, March 19, 2018
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Critical Fire Weather Conditions for SE NM into SW TX.

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River of LA/SE AR.

Minor river flooding continues in E TX/NW LA and E AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Kurt Van Speybroeck
817-978-1100 x 147



Key Points

Today

- Critical fire weather conditions across SE NM into SW TX
- Elevated fire weather conditions across much of NM into Central TX

Tuesday - Friday

- No significant weather impacts

River Flood Status

- Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA and Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.
- Baton Rouge, LA and Donaldsonville, LA will crest with levels similar to January 2016
- The Atchafalaya River is near crest at Melville, LA. Cresting conditions are expected early this week at Morgan City, LA.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 19, 2018 - Mar 23, 2018

DAY / THREAT	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Strong/Severe Storms					
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	SE NM/SW TX				
	E NM and TX				
Winter					
River Flooding	LA/SE AR				
	E TX/NW LA E AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

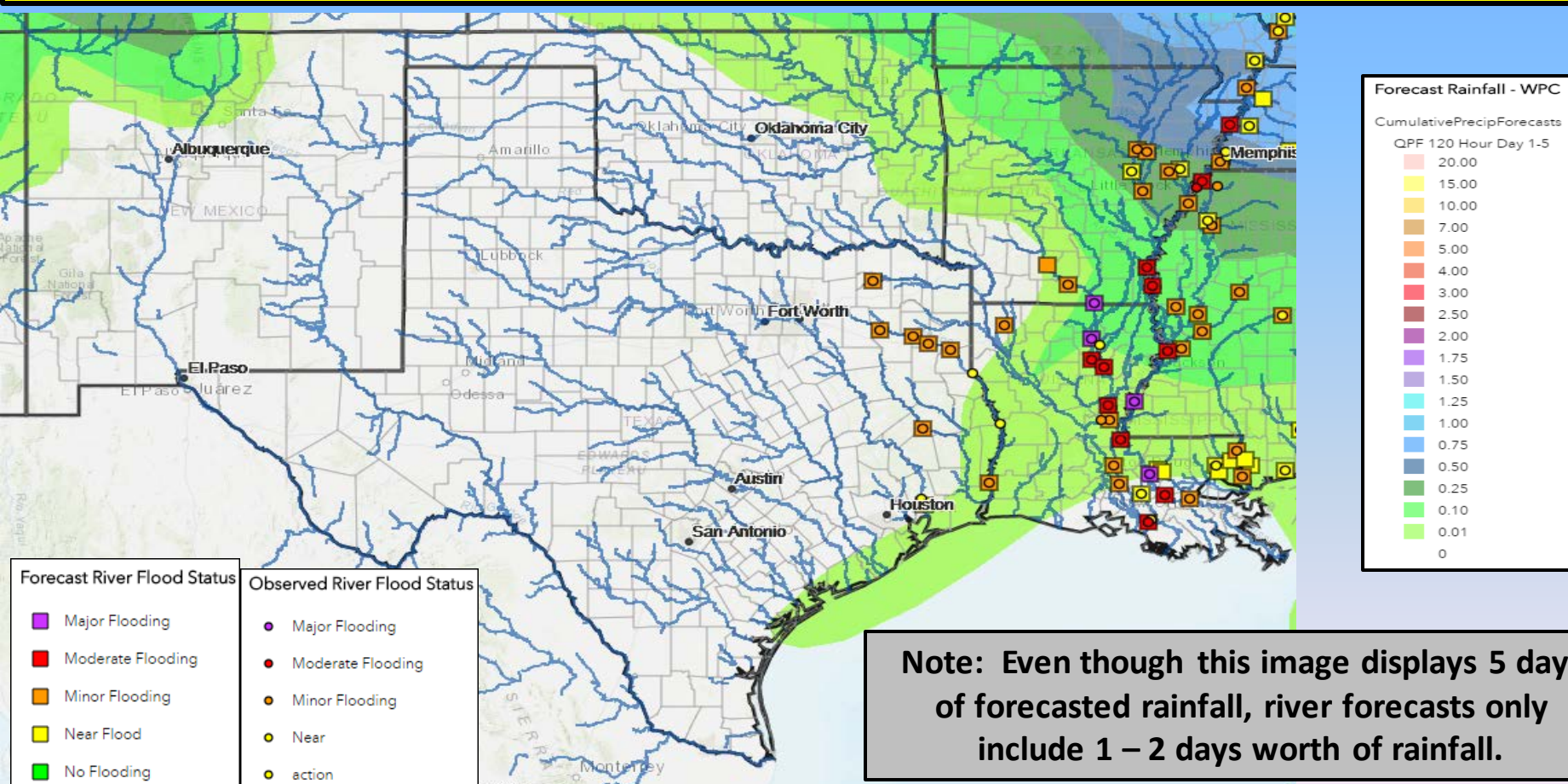


5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River in AR, MS River and Atchafalaya River in LA:

- **Baton Rouge, LA and Donaldsonville, LA will crest with levels similar to January 2016.**
- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA & Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.**
- **The Atchafalaya River is near crest at Melville, LA. Cresting conditions are expected early this week at Morgan City, LA.**

Minor flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX/NW LA and E AR.



See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



Mississippi River Crest Watch

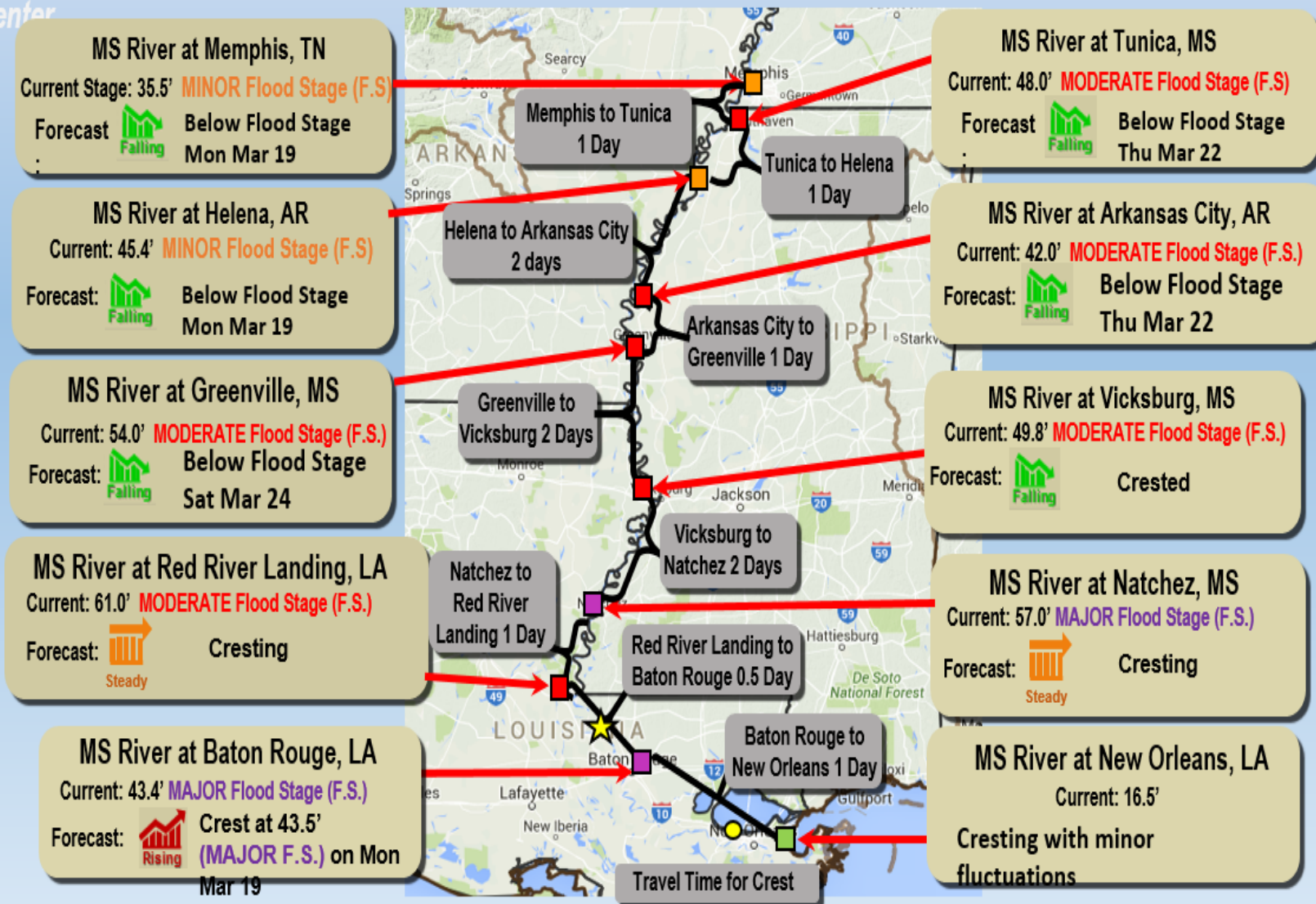
Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 18, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC

Center



★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today ● Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation



Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

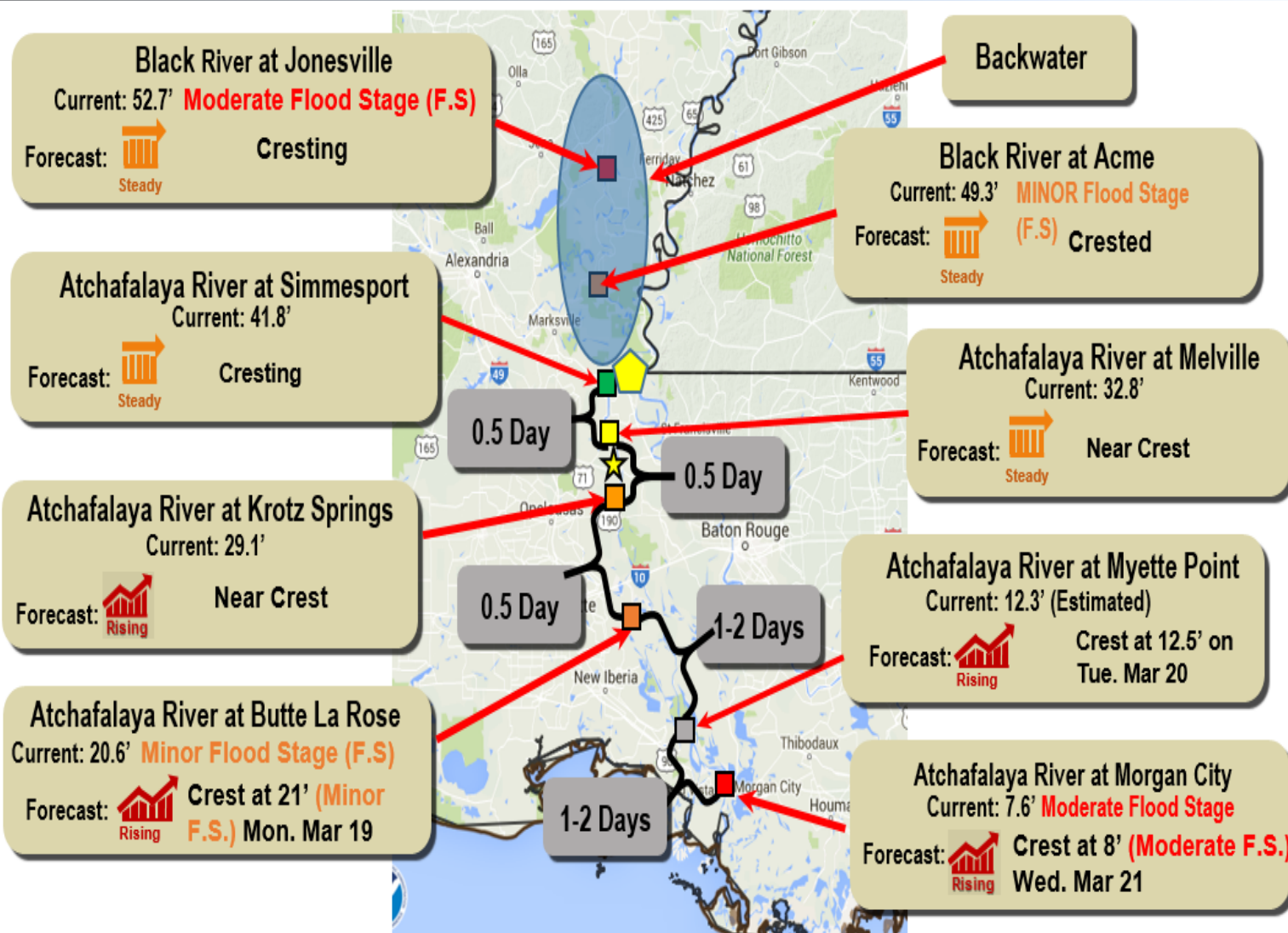
Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 18, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast

f NWSLMRFC

🐦 @NWSLMRFC

Center



Old River Control Structure

Crest Today

Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure



Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 18, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast


f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC

Center

Ouachita River at Camden

Current: 25.5' **Action Stage**

Forecast:  Crest at 26.5' (**Minor F.S.**)
Wed. Mar 21th

Ouachita River at Thatcher

Current: 86.4' **Minor Flood Stage (F.S.)**

Forecast:  Above Flood
Stage thru 22-Mar

Ouachita River at Columbia

Current: 68.9' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Near Crest**

Black River at Jonesville

Current: 52.7' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Cresting**


3 Days

6 Days

2 Days

3 Days

Ouachita River at Felsenthal

Current: 84.2' **Major Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  Above **Major Flood Stage (F.S.)** thru 22-Mar

Ouachita River at Monroe

Current: 47.3' **Major Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast: **Crested**

Boeuf River at Fort Necessity

Current: 57.2' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Cresting**

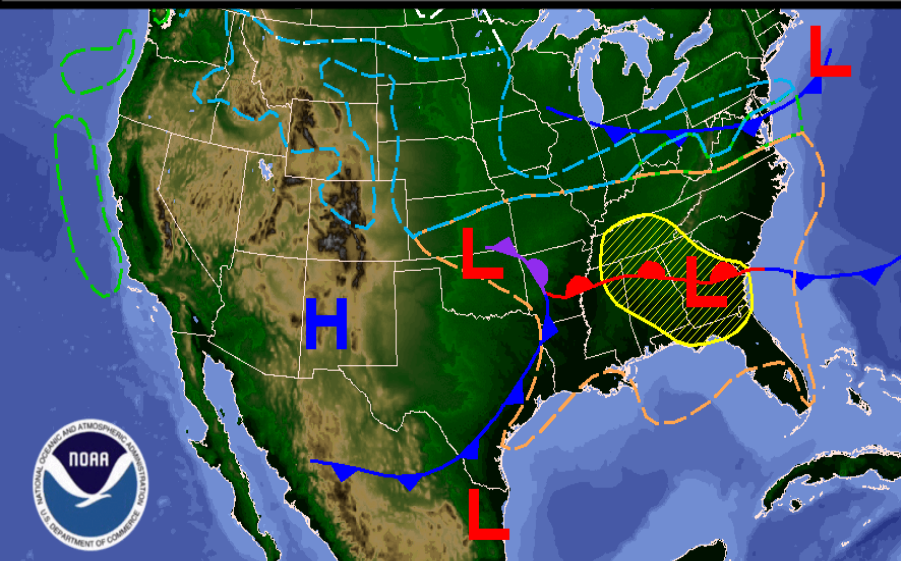
Backwater

Black River at Acme

Current: 49.3' **Minor Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Crested**

★ Crest Today

Today's Weather



Critical Fire Weather for SE NM into SW TX.

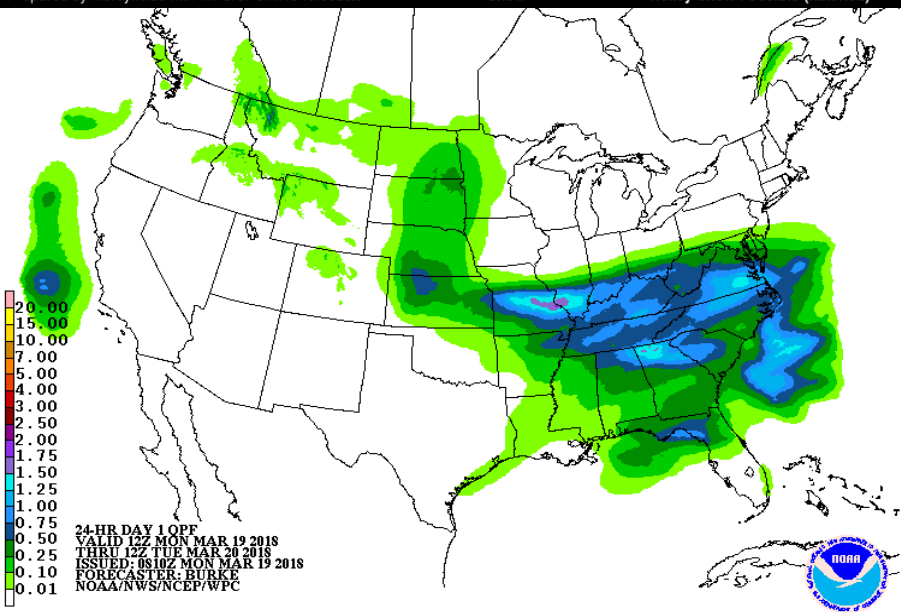
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor flooding will continue in E TX/LA and AR.

Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 19, 2018, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

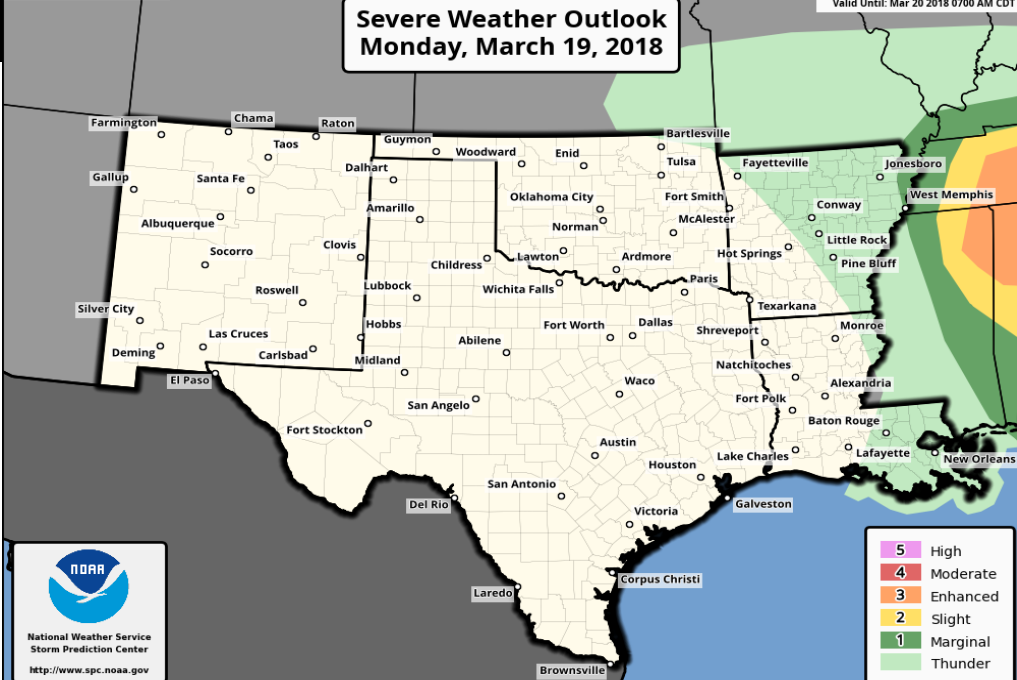
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



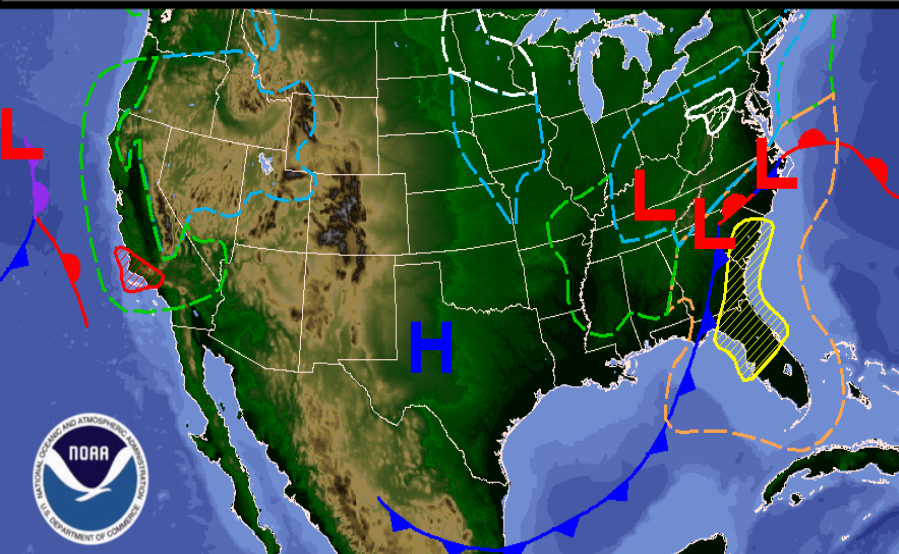
Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Monday, March 19, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 19 2018 0100 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 20 2018 0700 AM CDT



Tomorrow's Weather



No Significant Weather Impacts Expected.

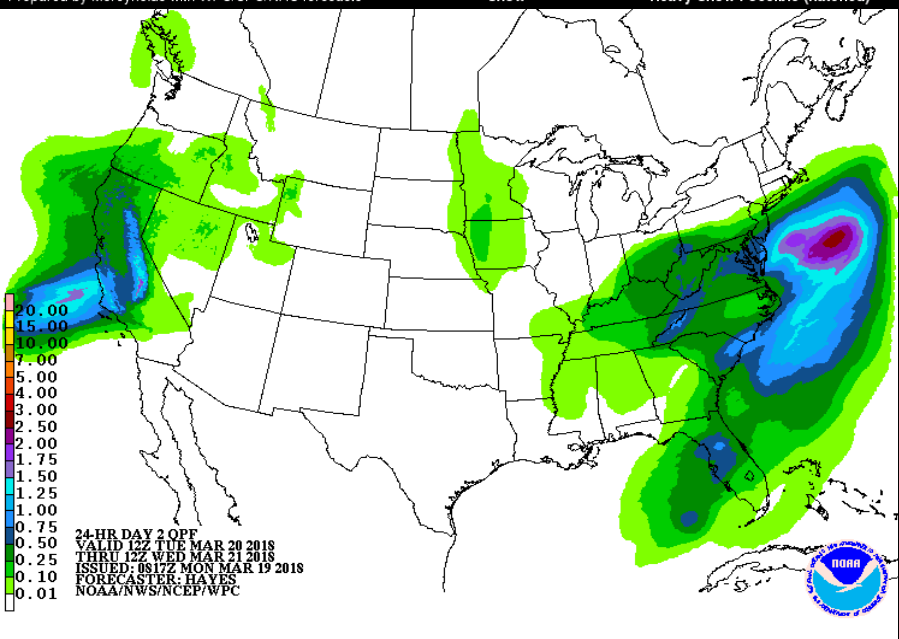
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor flooding will continue in E TX/LA and AR.

Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 20, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT Mon, Mar 19, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

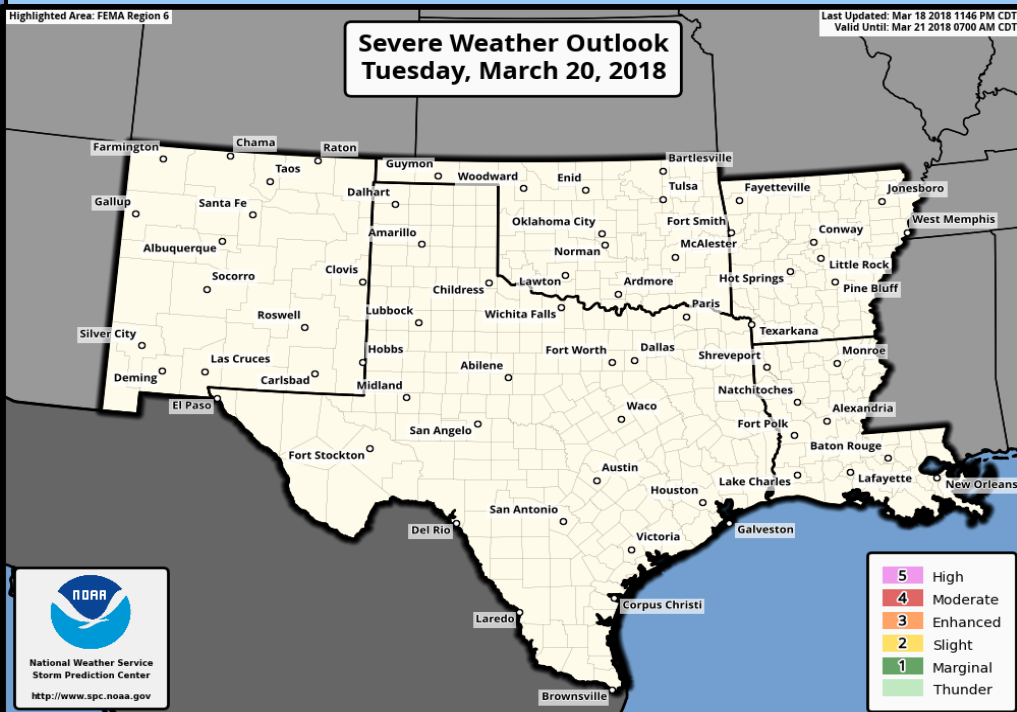
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 19 2018 11:46 PM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 21 2018 07:00 AM CDT

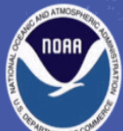
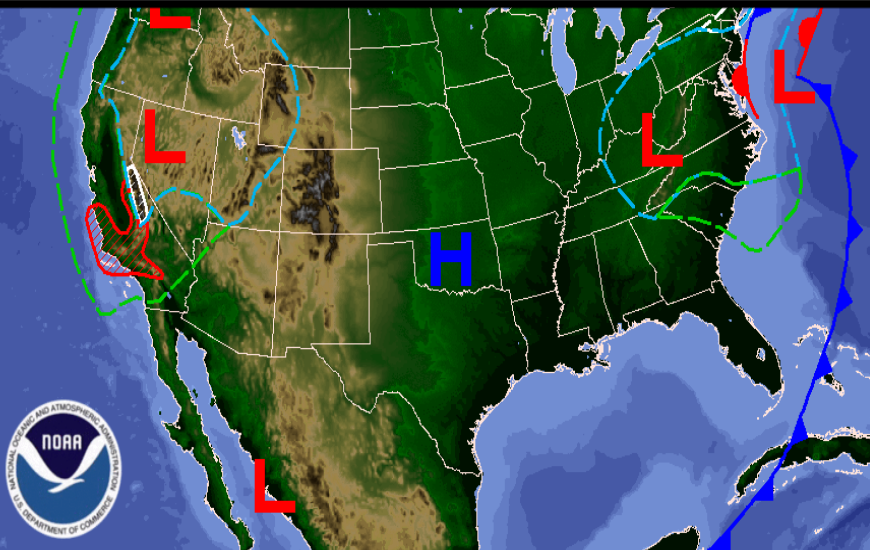


Wednesday's Weather

No Significant Weather Impacts Expected.

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

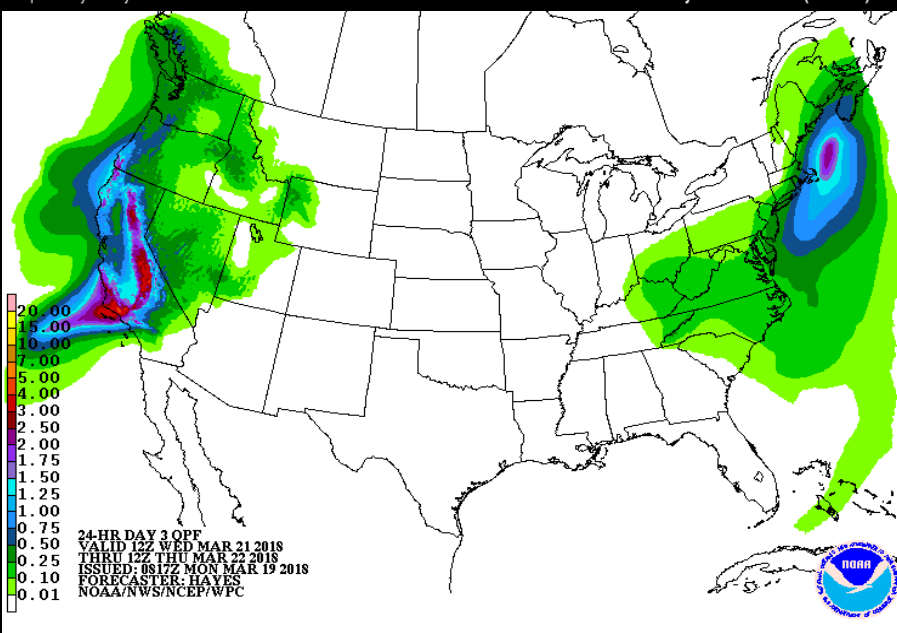
Minor flooding will continue in E TX/LA and AR.



Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Mar 21, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT Mon, Mar 19, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



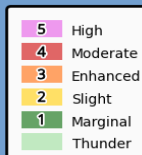
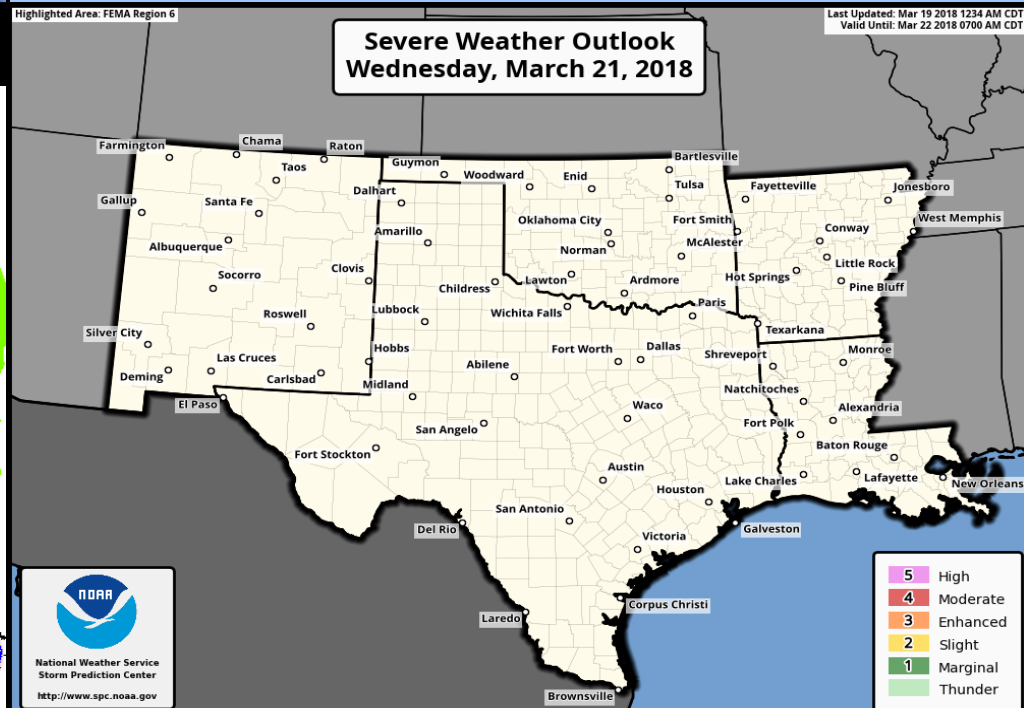
24-HR DAY 3 OVF
VALID 12Z WED MAR 21 2018
THRU 12Z THU MAR 22 2018
ISSUED: 0817Z MON MAR 19 2018
FORECASTER: HAYES
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 19 2018 1234 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 22 2018 0700 AM CDT









Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Thursday - Friday



**No Significant Weather
Impacts Expected.**

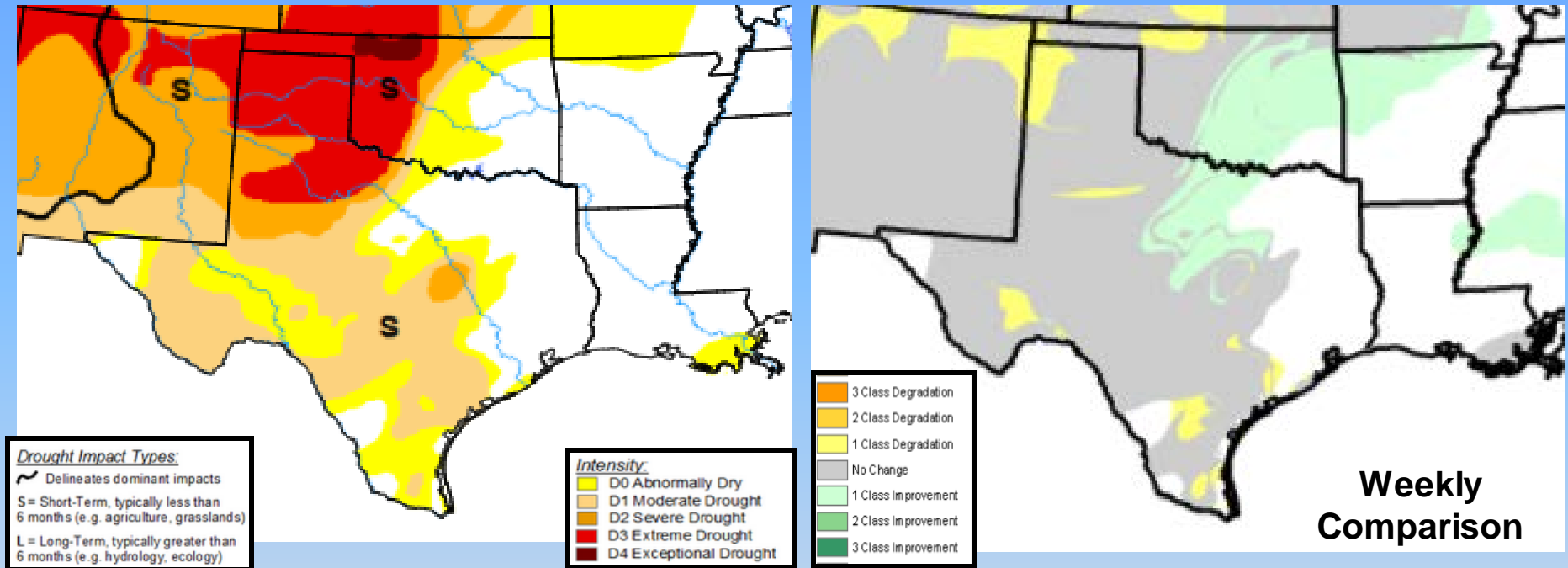
-  No Weather Threats Expected
-  Very Common – Happens Often
-  Common – Happens Frequently
-  Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
-  Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
-  Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



Drought Monitor Released March 15, 2018

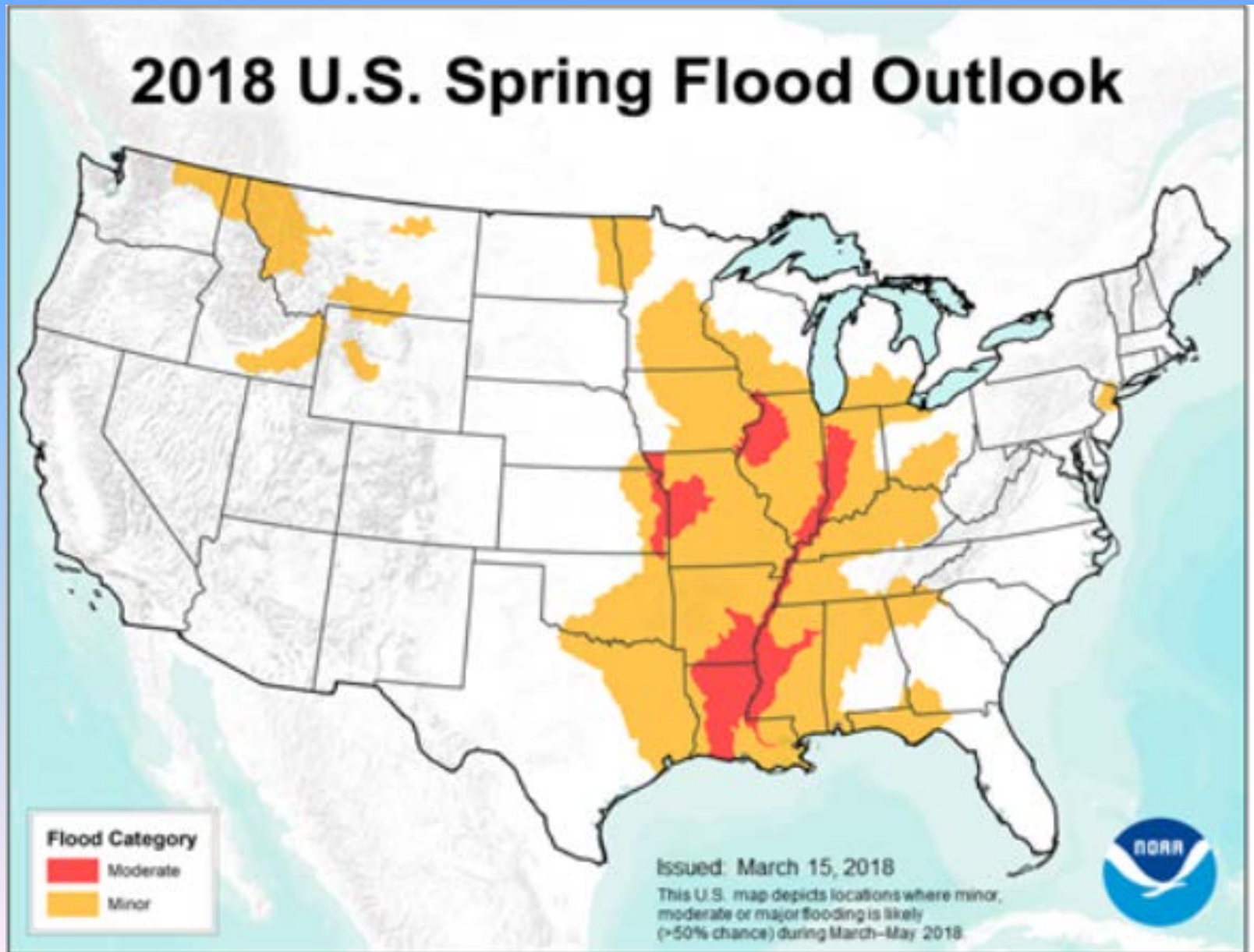
Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 13, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	42.40%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	7.07%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.45%	3.12%	3.17%
Texas	14.19%	14.16%	0.76%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.50%	17.08%	0.00%	0.00%

2018 U.S. Spring Flood Outlook Issued on March 15th



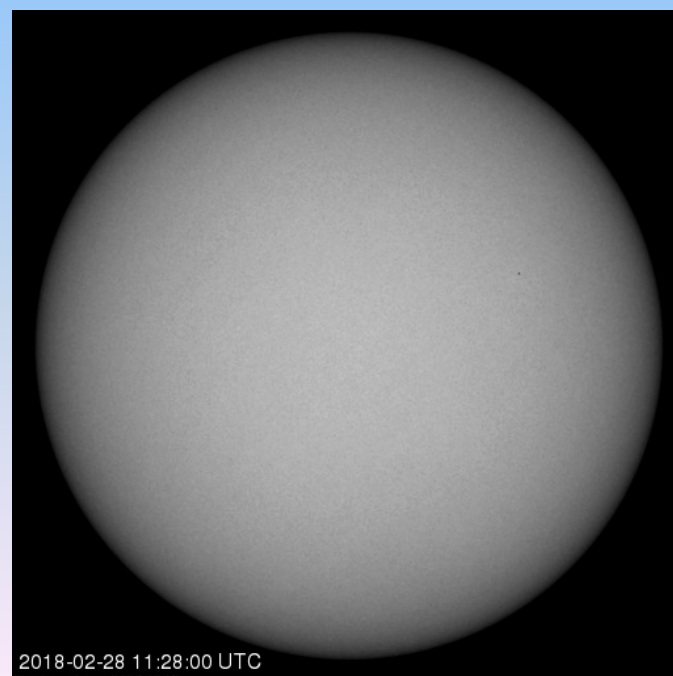
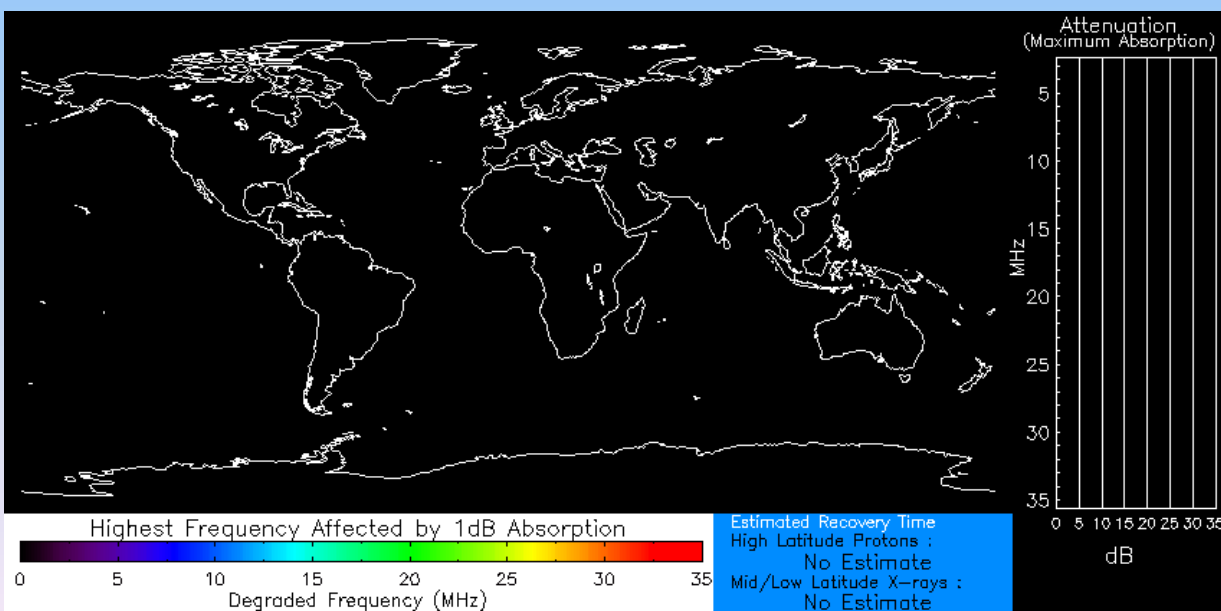
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%

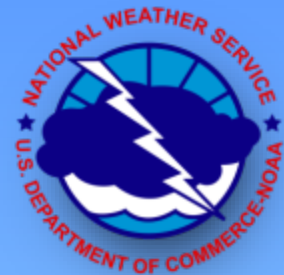


2018-02-28 11:28:00 UTC

Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-19 12:33 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

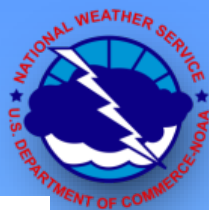
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

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The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms